

from the teen services department

# hot picks for teens april 2026

check out  
these hot new  
titles for teens!



Washington Centerville  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
teens  
Centerville Library  
111 W. Spring Valley Road  
Centerville, OH 45458  
(937) 433-8091  
Woodbourne Library  
6080 Fair Hills Avenue  
Centerville, OH 45459  
(937) 435-3700  
<https://teens.wclibrary.info>

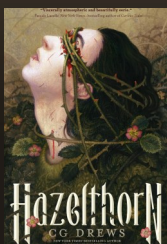


## WHEN WE WERE MONSTERS

By **Jennifer Niven (YA F Nive)**

**391 pages 2025 Mystery**

Every year, eight students are selected to participate in an exclusive January term, four weeks of specialized instruction by a well-known person in their field. This year, Effy, Arlo, and six others are participating in a writing workshop under the tutelage of famous author Meredith Graffam, at the remote estate that once belonged to the founder of their boarding school. Each student has a different reason for wanting to be there, and each student wants to win the coveted prize promised by Graffam. But Graffam's teaching techniques are unconventional, to say the least, and as she starts sending students home who are deemed unworthy, the remaining ones wonder if the price of fame is worth turning against each other. (Grades 9 & up)



## HAZELTHORN

By **CG Drews (YA F Drew)**

**355 pages 2025 Horror**

After years of being locked in his room, seventeen-year-old Evander suddenly inherits a massive fortune and a decaying estate filled with secrets. To solve his guardian's suspicious death, he must break every rule he's ever known and team up with Laurie, the dangerous boy he's been taught to fear but can't seem to stay away from. Together, they navigate a high-stakes enemies-to-lovers mystery while a sentient, bloodthirsty garden literally begins to tear the mansion apart. (Grades 8 & up)



## BETTER THE DEVIL

By **Erik J. Brown (YA F Brow)**

**392 pages 2026 Mystery**

When a 16-year-old queer runaway is picked up for shoplifting, he notices a missing-person flyer for a boy named Nathaniel Beaumont—and freezes. The age-progressed photo could be him. Desperate for any way out of an impossible situation, he makes a split-second decision: he'll become Nathaniel. Just temporarily. Just long enough to breathe. He knows it's wrong. But the alternative is jail, or worse—being handed back to the parents who were shipping him off to conversion therapy. Nathaniel's mother welcomes him home with open arms, her grief finally lifting after a decade of not knowing. His father and brother aren't so sure. With the help of a teen next door, they begin digging into what actually happened to Nathaniel ten years ago—and the deeper they dig, the more dangerous the truth becomes. This thriller is a story about the lies we tell to survive, and the unconditional love that has the power to heal us anyway. It's morally electric, relentlessly paced, and absolutely impossible to put down. (Grades 9 & up)

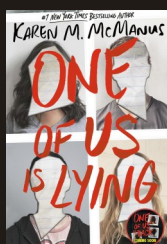


## EVERYTHING IS POISON

By **Joy McCullough (YA F Mccu)**

**287 pages 2025 Historical Fiction**

Sixteen-year-old Carmela has always dreamed of working in her mother's Rome apothecary. When she's finally granted access to the workroom, she discovers it holds far darker secrets than sweet-smelling remedies, including Aqua Tofana, a dangerous potion of last resort. A story of deadly secrets hiding in plain sight and the women who risk everything to care for those in need. (Grades 9 & up)



## ONE OF US IS LYING

By **Karen M. McManus (YA F Mcma)**

**360 pages 2017 Mystery**

This book is about 4 high school students - Bronwyn, Addy, Nate, and Cooper - become suspects after their blogger classmate dies mysteriously. Throughout the book, the characters are forced to face their personal struggles along with Simon's death. This book combines suspense and drama, while showing how truth can change everything. Reviewed by TAB member Naisha P. (Grades 9 & up)